

Remarks

Claims 1-16, 23-34, and 41-49 are pending. Claims 1, 23, 41, 44, and 47 have been amended. Claims 17-22, 35-40, and 50 have been canceled without prejudice, to be pursuable in a continuing application.

In the Drawings

The drawings are objected to because “the following requires descriptive wording (37 CFR 1.83(a)): Figure 4, item 220; Figure 12, item 240; Figure 13, item 1220; Figure 14, item 1210; Figure 15, item 280; and, Figure 32, item 1510.” Office Action of March 29, 2004, p. 2, no. 1. The applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

37 CFR §1.83(a) states:

The drawing in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

Thus, the applicants respectfully submit that there is no requirement under §1.83(a) for “descriptive wording” in figures. Section 1.83(a) does state that certain features should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box). Each item identified by the Examiner satisfies this requirement. The applicants note that in some figures, the items identified by the Examiner include, in addition to the item number label, “descriptive wording,” e.g., “Pipelined Switch” for item 220 in Figure 2. However, the applicants respectfully submit that the presence of descriptive wording in some figures in no way requires the presence of similar descriptive wording in other figures. More specifically, §1.83(a) imposes no such requirement. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the drawings to which the Examiner objects are proper.

In the Specification

The specification has been amended as illustrated above to correct several typographical errors. No new matter has been added.


Claim Objections

Claims 1-16, 23-34, and 41-49 are objected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 23, 26, 41, 44, and 47 have been amended to address the Examiner's objections. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Appreciation is expressed for the indication of allowability of claims 1-16, 23-34, and 41-49. In response, claims 1, 23, 41, 44, and 47 have been amended, as noted above, to put them in condition for allowance. Claims 2-16 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 24-34 depend from claim 23 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 42 and 43 depend from claim 41 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 45 and 46 depend from claim 44 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 48 and 49 depend from claim 47 and are allowable for at least this reason.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on <u>June 1</u> , 2004.	
 Attorney for Applicant(s)	<u>6/1/04</u> Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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